



CLEAN WATER ACTION

CONNECTICUT

Testimony of Roger Smith, Campaign Director, Clean Water Action Energy and Technology Committee March 3, 2009

Clean Water Action is a national environmental non-profit with 25,000 Connecticut members. We have worked on energy-related issues in Connecticut since 1998.

Raised H.B. No. 6603 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CLASS III RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD.

Since 2003, Clean Water Action staff have promoted clean energy and energy efficiency at the town and individual level through the 20% by 2010 campaign. We are currently organizing free forums across the state to educate residents about how to make their homes more energy efficient and what Connecticut programs are available to help.

We strongly support the intention of this bill to clarify an existing DPUC ruling that allows energy savings from residential customers who do not participate in CT Energy Efficiency Fund programs to be able to aggregate their savings and receive 100% of the Class III credits they have earned.

This change will create a market-driven financing model to enable private entities, including businesses, non-profits and municipalities to undertake residential conservation programs above and beyond the excellent programs currently offered by the Energy Efficiency Fund. We see tremendous potential for local clean energy task forces, town governments, low-income housing groups, associations for senior citizens and others to use volunteer manpower to install efficient lighting and appliances in the homes of those who need it the most, and then pay for these upgrades by effectively cashing in the energy savings as Class III RECs. Any risks are borne by private entities, not ratepayers, and it will be the responsibility of the entities seeking Class III RECs for their projects to demonstrate to the DPUC that the savings are real and verifiable.

For this model to succeed we need to not only make this definitional change but also ramp up the amount of the Class III RPS at least 1% per year. This is essential as the amount of efficiency savings achieved annually by the CEEF is effectively equal to the demand from the Class III RPS, which does not leave room in the market for private participants.

Establishing a stable, consistent, unraidable financing mechanism for efficiency will create new green jobs for Connecticut workers and stem the flow of dollars out of Connecticut to purchase electricity from fossil fuels.